

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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INFO USMISSION NATO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0113

FROM US REP MBFR

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: MARCH 11 EASTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

1. AT THE NINETY-SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR
NEGOTIATIONS ON MARCH 11, BELGIAN REP (ADRIAENSSEN) AND
CZECHOSLOVAK REP (LAHODA) WERE THE ONLY SPEAKERS. BELGIAN
REP'S STATEMENT REPORTED BY SEPTTEL. THE MAIN
POINTS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK STATEMENT WERE:

A. THE LATEST EASTERN PROPOSAL HAS GIVEN THE VIENNA
TALKS A NEW QUALITATIVE CONTENT AND MEETS A NUMBER OF THE
BASIC REQUIREMENTS EXPRESSED BY THE WEST.

B. THIS PROPOSAL HAS POSITIVE ELEMENTS AND A COMPROMISE
CHARACTER, IN CONTRAST TO THE UNREALISTIC POSITION OF
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THE WEST.

C. PARTICIPANTS SHOULD RECALL THE URGENT NEED TO ACHIEVE TANGIBLE PROGRESS IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS, CONSISTENT WITH THE AGREED AIMS.

D. THE SOCIALIST STATES STAND FOR CONTINUING DETENTE, AS WAS DEMONSTRATED AT THE RECENT CPSU CONGRESS IN MOSCOW.

E. CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS BEEN GUIDED BY THIS SPIRIT IN VIENNA IN CO-AUTHORING THE LATEST EASTERN PROPOSAL, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WHICH IT IS ACTIVELY SEEKING.

F. THIS PROPOSAL UNQUESTIONABLY CONTAINS COMPROMISE ELEMENTS, SUCH AS THE PROVISION FOR FIRST STAGE REDUCTIONS BY US AND USSR ONLY, WITH REDUCTIONS BY OTHER PARTICIPANTS DEFERRED UNTIL THE SECOND STAGE.

G. IN THE FIRST STAGE, THE OTHER DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WOULD ONLY ASSUME COMMITMENTS OF A GENERAL CHARACTER, DEFINING THE FINAL AIM OF REDUCTIONS AND THE GENERAL TIMING OF REDUCTION COMMITMENTS FOR THE FOLLOWING STAGE.

H. FOR THE MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED IN VIENNA TO BE JUST, EFFECTIVE, MUTUAL, AND EQUITABLE, EACH PARTICIPANT MUST UNDERTAKE PRECISE AND EQUAL COMMITMENTS, AS PROPOSED BY THE EAST.

I. THIS MEANS THAT ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS MUST ACCEPT CONCRETELY DETERMINED AND BINDING TIMING FOR THEIR REDUCTIONS.

J. FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF IDENTITY OF COMMITMENTS, THE WEST'S DEC 16 OFFER CANNOT BE CONSIDERED EQUITABLE AND JUST FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS.

K. PAST ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH EQUIVALENCE FOR COMPARING DIFFERENT TYPES OF ARMAMENTS ALL HAVE FAILED.

L. THE NEW EASTERN PROPOSAL SETS UP REALISTIC
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TIMING FOR REDUCTIONS, WITH THE WHOLE PROCESS TO BE COMPLETED IN 1978.

M. EASTERN CRITICISMS THUS FAR OF THE WESTERN REDUCTION CONCEPT ARE BASED ON THE WEST'S FAILURE TO TAKE THE AGREED PRINCIPLES OF THE NEGOTIATIONS INTO ACCOUNT.

N. THE EAST, MOREOVER, CANNOT AGREE TO PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD LEAD TO UNILATERAL ADVANTGES AND CHANGE THE RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES IN THE REDUCTIONS AREA.

O. COLLECTIVE CEILINGS AND ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTIONS ARE ALSO UNACCEPTABLE AS BEING CONTRARY TO THE GOAL OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

P. THE SOLUTION PROPOSED BY THE EAST CONFORMS FULLY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUITY AND CORRESPONDS FULLY TO THE INTERESTS OF ALL EUROPEAN STATES.

2. THE FULL TEXT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK STATEMENT FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM. RESOR

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